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Message Text

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47
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /112 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MCAP, NL
SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

1. SUMMARY. LT. GEN. IJSSELSTEIN, CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF WILL RESIGN 1 DECEMBER. IJSSELSTEIN'S RESIGNATION IS PROBABLY DUE TO (A) DISSATISFACTION WITH CONTINUING INFLUENCE OF FIRST CORPS COMMANDER, LT GEN MEYNDERTS IN ARMY AND (B) DISAGREEMENT WITH DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING ON DIRECTION OF DUTCH DEFENSE POLICY.

END SUMMARY.

2. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT GEN IJSSELSTEIN, HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL RESIGN EFFECTIVE 1 DECEMBER. IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF IJSSELSTEIN'S RESIGNATION APPEARS TO BE UNHAPPINESS OVER DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING'S DECISION THAT LT. GEN MEYNDERTS, COMMANDER OF DUTCH FIRST CORPS, PRESENT A DETAILED PLAN FOR SHORTENING TERM OF MILITARY SERVICE. MEYNDERTS HAS DESIGNATED ONE OF HIS CLOSEST COLLABORATORS, BRIGADIER GEN. CLUMPKENS, TO ASSIST HIM IN THIS STUDY. IJSSELSTEIN'S DECISION ALSO COMES ON HEELS
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SO-CALLED KRANENBERG AFFAIR. MAJ. GEN. KRANENBERG WAS

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ENGAGED IN WHAT DEFENSE MINISTER CONSIDERED POLITICAL
PROSELYTIZING OF HIS OFFICERS AND WAS ORDER TO DESIST.
REPORTEDLY ONLY DIRECT ORDER FROM IJSSELSTEIN (WHO
VACILLATED ABOUT ISSUING IT) CAUSED KRANENBERG TO SUSPEND
HIS ACTIVITIES.

3. COMMENT: IJSSELSTEIN IS THE THIRD HIGH-RANKING DUTCH
OFFICER TO RESIGN WITHIN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. LT. GEN.
VAN RIJN, JCS CHAIRMAN, RESIGNED EARLIER THIS YEAR AS
RESULT INABILITY TO DEAL WITH FORMER DEFMIN DE KOSTER AND
EXPECTATION THINGS WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT UNDER VREDELING.
LT. GEN. BERGHUIS, GENERAL OFFICER PERSONNEL RETIRED
1 SEPTEMBER MOST PROBABLY AS RESULT OF DISAGREEMENT WITH
CONCLUSION OF LANGEMEIJER REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDED LG
MEYNDERRS NOT BE FORCED TO RESIGN DESPITE HIS FORWARDING
OF PLAN TO STREAMLINE DUTCH ARMED FORCES TO FORMER
PM BIESHEUVEL DIRECTLY WITHOUT GOING THROUGH "CHANNELS."
MEYNDERTS ALSO NOT "PUNISHED" FOR LEAKING RESULTS OF
GENERAL OFFICER PROMOTION BOARD WHICH ALLEGEDLY FAVORED
STAFF OFFICERS OVER FIELD OFFICERS. VREDELING'S
DECISION TO BYPASS IJSSELSTEIN AND TASK HIS RIVAL MEYNDERTS
TO PRESENT DETAILED PLAN ON SHORTER PERIOD OF
CONSCRIPT SERVICE APPEARS TO HAVE PUSHED IJSSELSTEIN
OVER THE EDGE.

4. IJSSELSTEIN'S RESIGNATION WILL PROBABLY REINFORCE
VIEW OF SOME THAT CURRENT DEFENSE TEAM IS ALIENATING
PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, AND THEREBY UNDERMINING
DUTCH SECURITY. IJSSELSTEIN'S PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, GO BACK
TO PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AND RESULT FROM STRUGGLE
BETWEEN TROOP COMMANDERS (MEYNDERTS) AND GENERAL STAFF
FOR INFLUENCE IN THE ARMY. SO FAR ONLY POLITICAL
REACTION TO IJSSELSTEIN'S RESIGNATION HAS BEEN FROM
SECOND CHAMBER DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, GEN. VAN
ELSEN OF KVP, WHO THINKS VREDELING IS ON RIGHT COURSE
AND DISMISSES IJSSELSTEIN'S RESIGNATION AS A PEEVISH
REACTION TO ESSENTIALLY PERSONAL PROBLEM. WHILE NOT
DISCOUNTING THIS MOTIVE, IT SEEMS CLEAR IJSSELSTEIN ALSO
HAD HONEST DOUBTS ON THRUST OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE
POLICY, ESPECIALLY AS IT CONCERNS SHORTER
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CONSCRIPTION PERIOD AND DEMOCRATIZATION WITHIN
THE ARMY. END COMMENT.
GOULD

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